Numb. 19.

The Female Tatler.

By Mrs. Crackenthorpe, *a Lady that knows every thing.*

Alitur vitium vivitque tegendo.

From *Wedneſday Auguſt* 17. to *Friday Auguſt* 19.

AT our next Interview, the admirable Lady *Meanwel* (after we were pretty well rid of ſome impertinent Viſitors) addreſs'd her ſelf to me in a moſt delicate and moving manner, which to her is peculiar, and in which ſhe moſt admirably excels: 'Dear 'Mrs. *Crackenthorpe* (ſays ſhe) when I was laſt made 'happy by you, you cannot imagine to what an ex-'alted Degree you rais'd my Expectations, and by 'your then elegant, tho' ſlight Draught of the admi-'rable Mr. *Affable*, notwithſtanding it conſiſted of 'but ſome faint Strokes and ſhort imperfect Hints, 'yet they made me extreamly ſenſible how his 'Character wou'd ſhine, when you wou'd give 'your ſelf Leiſure, and do me the Honour to re-'ceive it entire and compleatly finiſh'd from your 'judicious and charming Hand.

'I can't remember that in all my Life I 'paſs'd ſuch tedious and unpleaſant Hours, and 'muſt needs ingeniouſly profeſs, that I could 'not make any thing that formerly us'd to enter-'tain me with the greateſt Satisfaction, agreeable 'or diverting. You entirely convince me of the 'Folly of our effeminate fond miſled Affections, 'and what we ſo untruly call Tenderneſs and Bow-'els of Compaſſion, and that we may rather be e-'ſteemed Unjuſt and Cruel, when by ſo unaccount-'able a Caprice, we do ſuch irreparable Wrong to 'our own Offspring, as to abridge them, in their 'Youth, of thoſe Opporrunities of Education, which 'are the only Means to inſtil ſuch noble Qualifica-'tions and generous Principles in their Minds, as 'are incapable afterwards of ever being totally ob-'literated and defac'd, but render them the De-'light and Admiration of all they converſe with, 'and the Ornament of their Country and Family.

'Madam, I can't forbear to own that I have 'labour'd under many Convulſions, and met with 'great Obſtructions and Difficulties, which had 'like to have been beyond my Power to over-'come. Upon which, I diſcover'd my Mind to my Lady *Nicety*, who immediately flew into a moſt violent Paſſion, and expreſs'd her ſelf in ſuch furious and paſſionate Raillery againſt me, as if I had been the moſt unnatural of Mothers, and hardly to be accounted amongſt the Number of Women. 'Good 'God (ſays ſhe) what does my Lady *Meanwel* in-'tend to do! it ſurprizes me beyond meaſure, to 'hear that a Perſon of your diſtinguiſh'd Family, 'and plentiful Eſtate, ſhou'd ever entertain ſuch 'mean and vulgar Thoughts, as to ſend my pretty, 'genteel, tender, nice, ſweet-temper'd young Ma-'ſter, to be amongſt a Herd of *Mechanicks* and *Ru-'ſtick Brats*. Pardon me, dear Madam, if I begin to 'think you have not that Love for him which you 'formerly profeſs'd ſince I laſt ſaw you; if I did not 'very well know your Ladyſhips Temper and Con-'verſation, I ſhould poſitively conclude, that you had 'been aſſociating with ſome upſtart, awkard, ungainly, 'ill-bred Citizen's Wife, who us'd to ſend her Bant-'lings a grazing at three Shillings *per* Week, on pur-'poſe that ſhe might have a fair Excuſe to take a 'Country Journey once a Month to ſee the dear 'Babes, but in reallity to Intrigue for more. Well, 'for my part, I ſhall ſay no more, but if you per-'ſiſt in your Intentions, I am ſure, my Lady *Mean-'well* will loſe her good Opinion with the whole Fa-'mily of the *Niceties*, who always before had a moſt 'profound Deference and Reſpect for her Diſcretion 'and genteel Conduct. All this, my Dear, did not 'in the leaſt move me from my Reſolutions, which 'were built on the firm Baſis of your ſolid and un-'anſwerable Reaſons, therefore, I heartily beg you 'would continue the Character of the Worthy 'Mr. *Affable*, that I may reſolve, without any 'more ado, to endeavour to prevail with him to have 'the Inſtruction of my *Son*, as ſoon as a favourable 'Oportunity ſhall preſent it ſelf.

'My good Lady *Mean-well*, my Thoughts dwel-'ing ſo long when we laſt converſed together, upon 'the monſtruous and unparallel'd Mr. *Sullens* and his 'moſt delicious and (to him) agreeable Spouſe, it 'put me ſo much out of Humour, and full of the 'Spleen and Reſentment, that it required ſome con-'ſiderable Reſpite for me to get the Fit over and be 'compoſed, that I might be capable of entertaining 'your Lady-ſhip with Mr. *Affable*, whoſe Merits, 'as they far exceed my Comprehenſion, ſo I muſt 'of Neceſſity, want Words to expreſs my ſelf upon 'ſo deſerving and copious a Subject; but to com-'ply with your Deſire, according to my Capacity, 'not doubting but ſo Great a Man will pardon my 'Preſumption, and overlook my Defects, his Can-'dour not being Inferior to any of his other Accom-'pliſhments: He's Pious and Devout without any 'Suſpicion of Hypocriſie or Affectation, lov'd for his 'Goodneſs and Benignity, and becoming reſpect-'ful Deportment to all both Old and Young, as 'well ſuch as he caſually converſes with, as thoſe 'who are under his more immediate Care and Di-'rection, from whom particularly he receives more 'Reſpect and Obſervance, managing them with a 'better Decency and Decorum than any others, 'who exerciſe the moſt ſevere and rigid Diſcipline, 'well conſidering that Terror and Puniſhment ought 'only to be exerciſed on baſe and ſervile Minds, but 'that noble and generous Souls, are firſt won, and 'afterwards engag'd by Acts of Kindneſs and Benefi-'cence. In all his Stations, he manages his Affairs ſo, 'that he, and all that are any ways related to him, 'lead Lives of modeſt Pleaſure and Tranquillity.

Tho' his profound Proficiency, in univerſal Literature, does juſtly entitle him to uncommon Reſpect, yet the Humility of his Mind will not ſuffer him to ſoar, or with a haughty and ſupercilious Air, to Lord it over, or to uſe thoſe with Scorn and Contempt, who are far inferior to him in deſervedly valuable Acquirements. Is it not very unuſual, that Perſons of his Profeſſion, being neceſſarily, and unavoidably

unavoidably habituated to a lofty and ſurperb Mean, to maintain their Authority over thoſe they preſide, yet in his Compoſition, there is ſo juſt a Temperament of Sweetneſs and Mildneſs with the former, that it is entirely impoſſible to find any Predominancy. I hope I ſhall not offend any of thoſe Learned and Ingenious Gentlemen, who having ſo much profited under his learned and pious Inſtructions, are therefore the moſt proper Judges of his great Abilities and profound Merit, by preſuming to attempt a Theme ſo unſuitable for me.

'Dear Madam, I hope your Commands being laid upon me, will make an Atonement, and procure my Pardon. I am ſure, when your Ladyſhip has once made the Experiment by the Education of your Son under him, the Brightneſs of whoſe Genius requires, and deſerves a Tutor of ſuch Learning and Conduct, you will not only readily aſſent to what I have here aſſerted, but by an impartial Judgment between my Lady *Nicety* and my ſelf, ſoon determine who are the moſt juſt and faithful Adviſers, and think your ſelf amply remunerated for the preſent Loſs of his pretty Company, by the noble Advantages that will accrue to him, and the great Solace, and Pleaſure, and Satisfaction you will reap thereby.

*** *Mrs.* Crackenthorpe *acquaints the Publick, that her Man* Francis *has of late deſerted her Service, and carried away with him ſeveral Letters and Papers of Moment, which he is requir'd to return; and if any Perſon can give Notice of him to her, they ſhall be gratefully rewarded: He is a pretty Fellow, as times go; middle ſiz'd, a pleaſant Aſpect, fitted for Ladies Company, which made way for this Temptation, for he is ſuppos'd to be ſeduc'd by a ſcandalous, lewd Wench, a Caſt-off Miſs to a Quondam Quack Doctor in the City, who has been ſeen in his Company very lately. If any Perſon light on him, they are deſir'd to give Notice to Mrs.* Crackenthorpe, *or have him preſs'd aboard the* Scoundrel Galley.

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*** Simonis Ockleii Introductio ad Linguas Orientales. In qua Iis diſcendis vio munitur, & Earum Uſus oſtenditur. Accedit Index Auctorum, tam illorum, quorum in hoc libello mentio fit, quam aliorum, qui harum rerum ſtudioſis aſui eſſe poſſint.